

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending with claims 2-8 withdrawn. With entry of this amendment, Applicants amend claim 1. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the finality of the restriction requirement. The Examiner considers Figs. 3 and 4 as illustrating two different embodiments. Even if this position is correct (with which Applicants disagree), Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6 are at least generic in that they read on both Figs. 3 and 4 and should not have been withdrawn.

Independent claim 2 recites: "An electronic device comprising an angle member having a mountain-shaped cross section perpendicular to a[n] longitudinal direction thereof . . ." The Examiner read the recitation "perpendicular to a longitudinal direction thereof" as meaning that the angle member is perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of a side wall of a body such as body 10 in Fig. 4. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has misunderstood the recitation. The "thereof" refers to the angle member and not the electronic device. Therefore, the recitation "perpendicular to a[n] longitudinal direction thereof" refers to the direction in which the cross section is taken with respect to the angle member. If a cross-section of an angle member, such as the member 20 illustrated in Figs. 1-4, is taken perpendicular to the angle member's longitudinal direction, the cross-section is mountain-shaped as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. Because this recitation and the remaining recitations of claim 2 read on Figs. 3 and 4, claim 2 is generic. Dependent claim 3 also reads on both Figs. 3 and 4 and thus is generic as well.

Similarly, independent claim 4 recites "said angle member comprises a first plate and a second plate joined with each other at a bent portion, and in a cross-section perpendicular to a[n] longitudinal direction thereof, a distance from an outer end portion of said first plate to said bent portion is longer than a distance from an outer end portion of said second plate to said bent portion . . ." The recitation "in a cross-section perpendicular to a[n] longitudinal direction thereof" refers to

taking a cross-section of the angle member in a direction perpendicular to the angle member's longitudinal direction such that the recited distances to the bent portion are made clear. Because this recitation and the remaining recitations of claim 4 read on Figs. 3 and 4, claim 4 is generic. Dependent claim 5 and 6 also read on both Figs. 3 and 4 and thus are generic as well.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the finality of the restriction requirement and at least examine claims 2-6.

Rejection

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zappacosta (U.S. Patent No. 6,700,491). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as set forth in claim 1, is directed to an electronic device with a side face having a stepped portion to which a mountain-shaped angle member is fixable. The stepped portion has a first wall portion projecting outward from the side face, a second wall portion recessed inward and a connecting portion connecting the first and second wall portions. For example, in Figs. 3 and 4, the mixer 1 has a stepped side face 12 having a first wall portion 14 projecting outward from the side face 12, a second wall portion 15 recessed inward and a connecting portion 16.

Claim 1 further recites that the electronic device includes a fixing member for detachably fixing the angle member to the first wall portion. For example, Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate screw 28 fixing angle member 20 to first wall portion 14.

Finally, claim 1 as amended recites that the fixing member is "a member capable of fixing said angle member in any one of a first attachment mode in which said angle member is in contact with said first wall portion and opposed to said connecting portion and a second attachment mode in which said angle member is in contact with said first wall portion and overhangs outward said first wall portion." Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate that the fixing member 28 is capable of fixing angle

member 20 in the first attachment mode as illustrated in Fig. 3 or in a second attachment mode with an overhang as illustrated in Fig. 4.

Zappacosta discloses an assembly for retaining a computer expansion card. As illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, card 20 is attached to mounting panel 10 via mounting bracket 18 and restraining bracket 22 through fasteners 50. In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that wall 60 meets the recited first wall portion, that ledge 14 meets the recited second wall portion, that end 28 of retaining bracket 22 meets the connecting portion and that fastener 50 meets the recited fixing member. The Examiner does not cite to any section of Zappacosta in which the fastener 50 is fixing an angle member. In fact, the Examiner has not cited to any disclosure of an angle member in Zappacosta at all.

If the Examiner considers the retaining bracket 22 as the angle member, then there is no disclosure or suggestion in Zappacosta that fastener 50 is capable of fixing the retaining bracket 22 in two different attachment modes with respect to panel 10 as recited in claim 1. To the contrary, fastener 50 is designed only for openings 38 and 16 so as to fix bracket 22 in the single manner described in Zappacosta. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Zappacosta.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

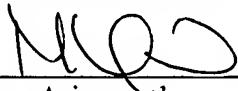
If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of

such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 393032041000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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